

INFORMATION ON NEGRO BASEBALL As Compiled by Effa Manley of
THE NEWARK EAGLES

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There are now two Negro Baseball Leagues, The Negro American League operating in the West, and The Negro National League operating in the East.

The American League Membership:

The Chicago American Giants
Kansas City Monarchs
Birmingham Black Barons
St. Louis Stars
Jacksonville Red Caps
Memphis Red Soxs

The National League Membership:

The Newark Eagles
Homestead Grays
Cuban Stars
Baltimore Elite Giants
New York Black Yankees
Philadelphia Stars

Each team has its own bus, by which the players travel. Each team plays about 40 League games a season, which number this office feels should be increased, and the remaining dates are filled with exhibition games with semi-pro clubs almost entirely white.(This is one of the big arguments in my opinion against racial conflicts. In all the years these teams have been playing each other, arguments are almost unheard of between players. This condition in a business where mens emotions are known to be keyed to the highest point every minute.)

There is a player limit of 18 men in addition the team has its bus driver, office secretary, travelling secretary and publicity man.

The two Leagues have adopted The Wilson Ball, which means they use that ball in all league games. This is an expensive item of operation.

The average number of balls used in each game is about two dozen, but three or four dozen may be used any time. They are not only lost in the stands, but umpires throw them out the minute they get scratched. It costs each team about \$65.00 to equip each man with two uniforms and a jacket. This does not include sweatshirts and shoes, which the player furnishes himself. The uniforms are the best made and most of the players insist on using the highest priced shoes. Due to the fact their salaries are so much lower than the white major league ball players, I have suggested to them using cheaper shoes. Their feeling is they cannot run as fast or play as well in the cheaper shoes. The Club buys the best uniforms because it would be sheer folly to put cheap material on them, in view of how hard they play. Running, sliding, stealing bases, and general hustling in a ball game is hard on the uniforms.

Our Season is short, running only from May to September, over this period each Club spends about \$40,000.00 operating. This large amount of money is spent for salaries, park rents, government taxes, equipment, transportation, balls, bats, etc. Multiply this by 12 and add some of the exhibition promotions, the baseball spends a half million dollars a year, and it is just starting to grow. It will not only supply many jobs, but is something the Race can feel proud of.

In 1935 the first East-West Classic was played in Chicago at Comiskey Park. The attendance that year was 16,500. This classic has grown each year to the place where in 1939 the attendance was 40,000 paid admissions. In 1940 the officials had decided to call the game on account of rain, the early arrivals were so numerous they decided to play, final attendance in spite of weather was 25,000. The game is being played this year July 27th, and it is expected the crowd will exceed 50,000.

The interest in Negro baseball is growing very definitely. There is of course room for improvement, but that is true of many things. Negroes as athletes are definitely tops. I honestly feel if our Negro ball players could get the care and attention ball players should have, if their lives could be made as easy and luxurious as the white ball players, you would see balls hit further, men run faster, and in general see baseball that has never been played.